



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
111 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0111

SAMR

APR 12 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR
HEALTH AFFAIRS

Subject: Coordination Request on Implementation Guidance for the Policy on
Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications

1. Thank you for the opportunity to review the implementation guidance for the Policy on Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications. The ASA (M&RA) concurs with the proposed implementation guidance for this policy.
2. Secretariat point of contact is COL (Dr.) Richard W. Thomas. He can be reached at (703) 695-4402 or email: richard.thomas@hqda.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. James", is written over the printed name.

RONALD J. JAMES
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Manpower and Reserve Affairs)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCCG

MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders, Regional Medical Commands

SUBJECT: Deployment Limiting Psychiatric Conditions Policy

1. Health Affairs issued the enclosed policy on Deployment Limiting Psychiatric Conditions in November 2006.
2. The policy is excellent in delineating conditions under which a Soldier should not deploy. However, since the issuing of the policy some questions have arisen about specific cases. In a very few cases, a waiver process may be needed.
3. If there is a question about whether or not a Soldier is fit for deployment for psychiatric conditions, the senior Behavioral Health officer or their designee needs to review the case. Factors that need to be taken into account include: the diagnosis, current symptoms, level of impairment, motivation of the Soldier, and the needs of the unit. The condition should be unlikely to lead to a medical board, and the Soldier must not be at imminent risk to harm self or others. If appropriate, a waiver may be requested from the Combatant Command Surgeon, or their designee.
4. The Combatant Command Surgeon will take into account, among other factors: the area of the planned deployment; the availability of the required medical services; and the likelihood of complications of treatment while in theater, which may further degrading the functional status of the Service member, and potentially cause evacuation of the Service member or overload the supporting medical assets.
4. Please document the impact of this policy on our Soldiers. Track the numbers and diagnoses both of Soldiers who are prohibited from deployment and Soldiers receiving waivers. Forward that data to my POC on a quarterly basis. If Soldiers receiving waivers are ultimately evacuated from theater for a psychiatric reason, or if large numbers of Soldiers are precluded from deployment because of the policy, that information will be very important to guide further policy.
5. Point of contact for this memorandum is COL Elspeth Ritchie, Health Policy and Services Directorate, at (703) 681-1975, or elspeth.ritchie@us.army.mil.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Encl

KEVIN C. KILEY
Lieutenant General, MC
Commanding



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000



JAN 19 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Request for Service Branch Implementation Guidance for "Policy Guidance for Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications"

Section 738 of the FY 2007 National Defense Authorization Act (Attachment 2) established the requirement for the Secretary of Defense to prescribe in regulations minimal standards for mental health for the eligibility of a member of the Armed Forces to deploy to a combat or contingency operation. Further, Section 738 requires "The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure the utilization of the standards...in making of determinations regarding the deployability of members of the armed forces to a combat operation or contingency operation." A report to Congress is required by June 1, 2007, providing information about the steps we have taken to ensure implementation.

The memorandum at Attachment 1, "Policy Guidance for Deployment-Limiting Psychiatric Conditions and Medications," dated November 7, 2006, was in partial fulfillment of Section 738 as it amended Title 10. To enable us to meet the requirement for the report to Congress, I request your office provide a copy of your Service implementing guidance within 30 days of the date of this memorandum. My point of contact is Colonel Bob Ireland at (703) 681-1703 or Robert.Ireland@ha.osd.mil.

David S. C. Chu

cc:

ASA (M&RA)
ASN (M&RA)
ASAF (M&RA)



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